

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 03011 301053Z

21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 DOTE-00 /028 W

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R 301013Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

FAA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3011

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 (DECLASS. DATE IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE)

TAGS: EAIR, LI, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FAA AND CESSNA INVESTIGATION INTO CRASH OF
MESURADO C-401 -- INQUIRY BY COMMERCE MINISTER

REF: MONROVIA 2463

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

1. THURSDAY, MAY 29, WILLIAM DENNIS, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION ASKED ME IF WE HAD RECEIVED THE REPORTS FROM THE FAA AND CESSNA TEAMS WHICH INVESTIGATED THE CRASH IN WHICH FINANCE MINISTER STEVEN TOLBERT WAS KILLED. I RESPONDED THAT WE HAD NOT, BUT THAT I WOULD INQUIRE INTO THEIR STATUS AND TRY TO EXPEDITE THEM.

2. MINISTER DENNIS INDICATED THAT HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO LAY TO REST THE SPATE OF RUMORS WHICH ARE CONTINUING TO CIRCULATE THAT THE CRASH WAS THE RESULT OF FOUL PLAY. HE AND OTHER GOL OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PRELIMINARY FINDINGS REPORTED BY THE INVESTIGATING TEAMS WHILE THEY WERE IN LIBERIA, BUT WOULD LIKE THE OFFICIAL REPORTS IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE CASE AND END SPECULATION.

3. I SHARE HIS DESIRE TO CONCLUDE THIS INVESTIGATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I AM PROUD OF THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE THE EMBASSY MADE TO GOL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN SEARCH AND RESCUE
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PAGE 02 MONROV 03011 301053Z

EFFORTS, AND THE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH BOTH THE FAA

AND CESSNA RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN INVESTIGATING THE ACCIDENT. AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE A FITTING CAP TO AN OPERATION IN WHICH ALL AMERICANS INVOLVED (BOTH PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT) CAN BE PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS IN EASING A TRAGIC AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE SITUATION.

4. IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THE MINISTER EARLY NEXT WEEK.
MANFULL

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